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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	China	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Shihching Arsenal, Canton	DATE DISTR.	24 February 1954
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. During late 1952 the Shihching (4258/0064) Arsenal¹ in Canton was reorganized by the Ordnance Department of the Ministry of Heavy Industry of the Chinese Communist Central and South China Military Committee² and was renamed the 32 Ordnance Factory.³ The 32 Ordnance Factory was then attached to the Ordnance Department.
2. The 32 Ordnance Factory, consisting of assembly and manufacturing divisions, had established two smaller factories, one at Hsikuan (6007/7070), Canton, engaged in the manufacture of ammunition, and the second at Yunghannan (3057/3352/0589), engaged in the manufacture of machine-gun parts.
3. The 32 Ordnance Factory employed approximately 5,000 laborers, more than 50 Soviet technicians, and a Soviet adviser, Ho-sha-ning (5440/3097/3942).
4. Production at the factory consisted of light and heavy machine guns, 7.92-mm rifles, sub-machine guns, 60-mm. and 82-mm. mortars, and parts for howitzers and artillery pieces. Between May and October 1953 this installation was producing about 500 60-mm. mortars per month.

1. Comment. This plant, which is the main arsenal in the Canton complex, is also known as the Hsinnan Arms Factory and is known to be producing small arms and ammunition. Reportedly, it has also produced 82-mm mortars and some artillery.

 Comment. In early December 1951 this installation was engaged in the production of shells, hand grenades, and other ammunition, and that the staff of the Shihching Arsenal had been increased during December by the addition of more than 400 Soviet advisers.

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- 2 -

- 25X1 2. [] Comment. Other information indicates that Chinese Communist arsenals are probably run by the national Second Ministry of Machine Industry.

- 25X1 3. [] Comment. According to available information dated late July 1952, an installation by this name was in Chungking (N 29-35, E 106-35) and was engaged in similar production. The Far East Command's Intelligence Summary, Number 4064, October 1953, reported the existence in Tsitsihar (N 47-20, E 123-57) during 1952 and 1953 of an installation known as the 32 Arsenal.

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